

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, the Ranking Democratic Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security issued the following statement regarding the Trayvon Martin case:

"The reported circumstances surrounding the death of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida, are disturbing. From the reports, I have two concerns. One is the questionable shooting death of an unarmed teenager on a public street. The second is the bizarre law enforcement response to the questionable shooting. Added to the concerns are indications that race (the shooter is White and the victim is Black) may have been a factor in both the shooting and the decision not to prosecute.

"Fortunately, it is now reported that the Department of Justice will be conducting an investigation into the matter to determine if federal civil rights laws have been violated. Also, it has been reported that the Florida Governor has appointed a new prosecutor to investigate the matter and that there is a pending Grand Jury investigation. I am hopeful that through these federal and state activities, the family and friends of Trayvon Martin will see the criminal justice system functioning and that the public will be provided a basis upon which to regain confidence in the criminal justice system in Sanford, Florida. And while nothing can ever make the family members whole for their lost, in addition to the criminal justice system doing its part, the civil justice system should also be an avenue of some vindication to them. In the final analysis, in addition to learning what happened in this case, we need to focus attention on evaluating how we can prevent similar tragedies in the future."

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